



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Savannah District

News Release

Thurmond's low lake levels bring silver lining for future boating opportunities

Release No: 08-44

December 18, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Savannah, Georgia – Historic low lake levels have enabled the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair and extend numerous boat ramps at the J. Strom Thurmond Lake at Clarks Hill, SC. During the drought of 1989, the lake elevation at Thurmond dropped to 312.79 ft. mean sea level (ft.-msl), the lowest level since 1962. During that period, the Corps extended many boat ramps on the lake. With the present low lake levels, the Corps is once again repairing, extending and removing siltation from many of the ramps on the lake.

“We are excited about making ramp improvements for the benefit of the public, allowing our visitors to access the lake for longer periods during times of low lake levels,” said Ranger Chrissy Westerberg, Corps chief ranger of recreation. “However, boaters are urged to inspect ramp conditions carefully and use at their own risk.”

Ramp repairs were recently completed at Mt. Carmel day-use, Rosseau Creek, Dordon Creek, Mt. Pleasant, and Cherokee. Ramps that have been extended include Amity, Cherokee, Chamberlain Ferry, Leroy's Ferry, Double Branches and Modoc campground. An additional lane has been added at Modoc 7 day-use ramp. Remaining repairs and extensions are dependent upon lake level changes.

In addition to Corps ramp improvements, Mistletoe State Park is in the process of moving the location of, and extending, their low water boat ramp. Columbia County is also extending ramp #2 in Winfield Hills Subdivision. Dorn Fishing Facility, in McCormick, SC, has also extended two launching lanes and now has the second deepest ramps on the water, after Leathersville ramp.

New ramp elevations are being continually updated on the Corps webpage as construction is completed. For ramp elevations and a list of ramps that are currently open, go to www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/boating.htm

Boaters are reminded to use extreme caution due to the continued low lake levels. Don't forget to WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

For additional information, contact the Thurmond Lake Project Manager's Office toll free at 1-800-533-3478, or visit their website at: www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond -30-

Contact:

Billy Birdwell
G. Jeanne Hodge
District Website
News Release

912-652-5014
(912) 652-5770

billy.e.birdwell@sas02.usace.army.mil
jeanne.hodge@sas02.usace.army.mil
www.sas.usace.army.mil
www.sas.usace.army.mil/pubs.htm